

# **Exhibit 6**



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## New lines draw critics

County lawmakers add a new minority district, but process is questioned  
by carol demare Staff writer  
Published 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, May 10, 2011

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ALBANY -- The redrawing of lines for the 39 districts of the [Albany County Legislature](#), required by the 2010 census which showed a shift in population, has spawned four predominantly minority districts from its current three, according to maps released Monday night.

The public can view the redistricting maps at the office of the clerk of the legislature and comment at a public hearing on May 17 at 7:15 p.m. in the first floor Cahill Room at 112 State St., the county office building.

The minority wards are the first, second, third and fourth in the city of Albany.

About a half dozen speakers addressed the legislature Monday, most of them dissatisfied

over what they said was a lack of significant input from the public into the redistricting. Legislators fired back there were nearly a dozen meetings of the redistricting committee and the turnout from the public was poor.

Aaron Mair, a leader in the minority community who was involved with civil rights groups that won a federal lawsuit in 2003 against the county for not fairly representing the minority population in the neighborhoods, was critical of the new maps.

"A poor reapportionment plan has a direct impact on communities of color moving into the middle class," and into neighborhoods where the tax dollars go, Mair said.

He found fault with the redistricting committee which was comprised of lawmakers, saying it should have been "a truly independent" committee with outsiders, such as the [League of Women Voters](#).

Letting lawmakers know this redistricting is the third time Mair has been involved, he blasted them, saying, "this county has a lot of shame to clean up."

An angry [Cohoes Democrat Shawn Morse](#), chairman of the redistricting committee, jumped to his feet, saying, "I will not stand for anybody saying I hoodwinked or misled or lied or manipulated" the reapportionment process. "Every day of my life I want to see people out of poverty and into the middle class."

Ron Bailey, who represents the 3rd Ward on the [Common Council](#), said he looked at the maps on Friday and it appeared the lines had been manipulated to edge out potential candidates who couldn't run because they no longer lived in those districts, "but today I am pleased to see it was changed back to how it had been."

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Clifton Dixon, who lives on Second Street and is a potential candidate for a legislative seat this year, said he felt confident with the mapping software being used.

But he attended the meetings and said he "repeatedly asked what other data besides the census data is being used to draw the lines for the majority minority districts."

He suggested the matter of the last-minute attempted manipulation of the lines in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th districts should be referred to the ethics committee.

Common Council member [Anton Konev](#) said the "perception was legislators got together to eliminate opponents," which the lawmakers denied.

Carolyn McLaughlin, president of the Common Council, expressed concerns over the process. The drawing of the lines was "made complicated" so it would be difficult for members of the public to understand, she said.

She also said the redistricting should have consistency. "Don't do one thing in district one through five and something different in other districts."

In other action, a resolution requiring restaurants to post their inspection grades was sent back to the health committee. Also, a new law requiring home improvement contractors to be licensed by the county was returned to committee.

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